

Research book initially
developed in 2024
for the 'Black Open Access'
project at DAE BA2
Studio Technogeographies.

Centered on concerns
and developments of (digital)
censorship, and responses
to it, such as the Open
Access Movement.¹

The book is ongoing,
and updated regularly.

Online version available on:
<https://blackopenaccess.carrd.co>

(BLACK) OPEN ACCESS¹ v. DIGITAL CENSORSHIP / SURVEILLANCE

¹ Open Access is a broad international movement which seeks to grant free and open online access to academic information, publications, and data.
Black OA refers to unauthorized digital copying by large-scale copyright infringement.

Table of Contents

Information Anarchy (Wisdom Anarchy)²

Free access to information regardless of human standing.
Divorced from a colonial narrative.
Knowledge disseminated freely.
Not having a group or person in power deciding or controlling.
Beyond human. Free knowing. Beneficial to the colonized.
Less easy to colonize when you know who you are.
Embodied knowledge. Values children as a key to liberation.
Decoupled from those in power, disseminating it to the oppressed.
Unconcerned with 'profitable'. Imagines outside the reasonable.
Deeply intuitive. Collective by design.

Shadow Libraries

Shadow Libraries respond to market failures (unavailable or unaffordable works) and expand global access to scientific and scholarly work versus copyright infringements.

They operate as a part of the *(Black) Open Access* movement and qualify as a typology of *Information Anarchy*.

Samizdat

Post-Stalin USSR, mid 1950s onwards until the 1990s.
Banned documents were copied and passed hand to hand through illicit channels. The majority of samizdat texts were politically focused. Each node in the distribution chain copied then continued it on.

"A particularly harsh republication censorship affected foreign literature, primarily in the humanities and socioeconomic disciplines; politics, international relations, sociology, philosophy, cybernetics, semiotics, linguistics."

Eudeba

Argentina, 1958, was the first university press to develop an explicit strategy of serving the public beyond the university and other specialized communities. Universities had emerged as vocal centers of political opposition under the dictatorships of the mid-1960s.

Project Gutenberg

First digital library, began making public domain works available in 1971 via the Arpanet, the predecessor of the Internet. Over 70.000 documents.

RuNet

Lib.ru

Created by Maxim Moshkov on RuNet in 1994.

Graduate of the Moscow State University department of mechanics and mathematics. MSU played a large role in the digitization of scientific works.

Moshkov's policy was to contact authors/publishers –if possible, to obtain permissions, and otherwise honor takedown requests.

"I am afraid to live in a world where no one reads books."

Disaggregated from Lib.ru:

SamLib.ru (2000s)

Original texts submitted by readers.

Librusec (2007)

Popular fiction, started charging monthly fees.

Flibusta (2009)

Popular fiction, community split off from Librusec,
provides free and unrestricted access to
a similar collection.

Kolkhoz Collection (2000s)

Around 50.000 documents of scanned and processed
scientific material.

*"There's been a shift from a Russian-language system to one
that's systematically mining the libraries of Western
universities and publishers."*

– Joe Karaganis

The Internet Archive

Began in 1996, the Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, etc. It archives the Internet itself and provides free access to researchers, historians, scholars, people with print disabilities, and the general public.

Textz.com

First iteration in 2001 by Sebastian Lütgert/ROLUX,
re-launched in 2020.

Rutracker.nu

Russian file-sharing website from 2004 onwards.
Torrents were posted with no particular order or categorizing,
this attracted a librarian and was compelled to catalogize
the works and texts.
Later became Library Genesis.

Library.nu
(Ebooksclub.org / Gigapedia)

2004, first Shadow Library to reach maturity.
Copied books from Kolkhoz around 2006. Largest shadow library at the turn of 2010. A group of seventeen publishers led by John Wiley & Sons was granted an injunction against the site in 2012; the library administrators closed the site, but its collection continued circulating through other sites and shadow librarians.

AAAAARG

It was created in 2005 by the artist Sean Dockray and serves as a library for the Public School – an online platform that supports offline autodidactic activities.

AAAARG is an open platform for artists and scholars to help collect, disseminate and discuss an ever-growing catalog of critical, theoretical and philosophical texts.

Open Library

Founded by Aaron Swartz in 2006.
He wrote the 'Guerilla Open-Access Manifesto' in 2008.
He was prosecuted for unauthorized bulk downloading of academic articles from the JSTOR database.
Committed suicide in 2013.

Information is power. But like all power, there are those who want to keep it for themselves. The world's entire scientific and cultural heritage, published over centuries in books and journals, is increasingly being digitized and locked up by a handful of private corporations. Want to read the papers featuring the most famous results of the sciences? You'll need to send enormous amounts to publishers like Reed Elsevier.

There are those struggling to change this. The Open Access Movement has fought valiantly to ensure that scientists do not sign their copyrights away but instead ensure their work is published on the Internet, under terms that allow anyone to access it.

But even under the best scenarios, their work will only apply to things published in the future. Everything up until now will have been lost.

That is too high a price to pay. Forcing academics to pay money to read the work of their colleagues? Scanning entire libraries but only allowing the folks at Google to read them? Providing scientific articles to those at elite universities in the First World, but not to children in the Global South? It's outrageous and unacceptable.

"I agree," many say, "but what can we do? The companies hold the copyrights, they make enormous amounts of money by charging for access, and it's perfectly legal – there's nothing we can do to stop them." But there is something we can do, something that's already being done: we can fight back.

Those with access to these resources – students, librarians, scientists – you have been given a privilege. You get to feed at this banquet of knowledge while the rest of the world is locked out. But you need not – indeed, morally, you cannot – keep this privilege for yourselves. You have a duty to share it with the world. And you have: trading passwords with colleagues, filling download requests for friends.

Meanwhile, those who have been locked out are not standing idly by. You have been sneaking through holes and climbing over fences, liberating the information locked up by the publishers and sharing them with your friends.

But all of this action goes on in the dark, hidden underground. It's called stealing or piracy, as if sharing a wealth of knowledge were the moral equivalent of plundering a ship and murdering its crew. But sharing isn't immoral – it's a moral imperative. Only those blinded by greed would refuse to let a friend make a copy.

Large corporations, of course, are blinded by greed. The laws under which they operate require it – their shareholders would revolt at anything less. And the politicians they have bought off back them, passing laws giving them the exclusive power to decide who can make copies.

There is no justice in following unjust laws. It's time to come into the light and, in the grand tradition of civil disobedience, declare our opposition to this private theft of public culture.

We need to take information, wherever it is stored, make our copies and share them with the world. We need to take stuff that's out of copyright and add it to the archive. We need to buy secret databases and put them on the Web. We need to download scientific journals and upload them to file sharing networks. We need to fight for Guerilla Open Access.

With enough of us, around the world, we'll not just send a strong message opposing the privatization of knowledge – we'll make it a thing of the past. Will you join us?

Aaron Swartz
July 2008, Eremo, Italy

WikiLeaks

It was founded by its publisher Julian Assange in 2006. WikiLeaks specializes in the analysis and publication of large datasets of censored or otherwise restricted official materials involving war, spying and corruption. It has so far published more than 10 million documents and associated analyses. Assange was imprisoned in 2019 and liberated June 2024.

Julian Assange

After being imprisoned on April 11th 2019, Assange was finally released on June 24th 2024. Nils Melzer, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and two medical experts concluded that Assange's treatment constituted psychological torture, a form of torture aimed at destroying the personality of an individual.

"The movement to free Julian Assange has been a truly global effort. Activists on nearly every continent, in dozens of countries and hundreds of cities have each played a meaningful part in securing Julian's release." ³

– Stephen Rohde, Assange Defense director

Library Genesis

2008, started by Russian scientists to consolidate the mostly Russian-language text collections.

In 2011, it swallowed the much larger and broader Library.nu collection. Contains 87 million files.

“Here’s what I see as a consequence of free educational book distribution: within decades, generations of people everywhere in the world will grow up with access to the best scientific texts of all time.

The quality and accessibility of education to the poor will grow dramatically too. Frankly, I see this as the only way to naturally improve mankind: we need to make all the information available to them at any time.”

– Anon admin of LibGen

The main mission of the LibGen community is the development of the collection. Its democratic approach to access is matched by an elitist approach to content. As characterized by one of its administrators (admins), these goals are to

- collect valuable science/technology/math/medical/humanities academic literature. That is, collect humanity's valuable knowledge in digital form. Avoid junky books. Ignore "bestsellers."
- build a community of people who share knowledge, improve quality of books, find good and valuable books, and correct errors.
- share the files freely, spreading the knowledge altruistically, not trying to make money, not charging money for knowledge.

LibGen's agenda is marked by deep aversion to a narrowly academic understanding of research and education, especially with regard to elite institutions that provide gated access to knowledge for their communities. Instead, LibGen's statement takes the autodidacticism necessary to education in many parts of the world and reimagines it as a liberatory agenda—a future of self-learning communities based on universal access to knowledge. The LibGen admin further describes site priorities:

The overwhelming arrogance of university staff will gradually be suppressed for a larger flow of exceptionally educated people without special degrees acquired (I am proudly the case, that's why I'm saying this, it's not a fantasy). [...]

The target groups for LibGen are poors: Africa, India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, China, Russia and post-USSR etc., and on a separate note, people who do not belong to academia. If you are not at a university, you can't access anything or at least your access will be so much troubled that you won't be able to progress at all.

Livros de Humanas

Around 2008, faded out towards 2014.

Blog that collected links to texts stored on file hosting services; so far, the best example of Brazilian attempt at a large-scale student-built shadow library.

Beginning in August 2009, the ABDR (Associação Brasileira De Direitos Reprográficos) began to systematically send takedown notices and initiate lawsuits. In 2014, the ABDR claimed to be removing links to pirated content at a rate of around 8.000 links per month.

E

Mirrors LibGen, but charges users for their books.

"E is a scam. They were banned in our forum. Yes, most of the books in E came from LibGen, because LibGen is open, but we have nothing to do with them. [...] If you wish to buy a book, do it from legal sources. Otherwise it must be free."

– LibGen admin

Methodology of ‘mirroring’:

Although ordinary users can search the catalog and retrieve the texts, LibGen’s main focus is the distribution of its own library infrastructure, including its source code, catalog, and terabyte-sized collection, to anyone who wants to start their own library.

In practical terms this means that anyone can freely take a copy of LibGen and start distributing text under their own terms. This openness has led to the reation of a lively ecosystem of shadow libraries around the core LibGen collection.

Z-Library (BookFinder)

Allegedly launched in 2009.
Started as a mirror of LibGen and has since expanded dramatically.
Its collection is currently comprised of 22.525.200 books,
and 284.837.643 articles.

Sci-Hub

Founded by Aleksandra Elbakyan in 2011.

When a user downloads a copy, it is automatically re-uploaded to LibGen if the document was missing from the site.

Over 80 million scientific documents.

Pradeep's Eleven

In 2013, as part of an effort to popularize its academic journal databases in India, Sage Publishing offered a week of unlimited access to students at a leading university in a south Indian city. This was a promotional arrangement intended to encourage the university to subscribe to the service.

This taste of access, however, led to an unexpected gulp. Anticipating that the university might reject Sage's subscription costs, a group of students, led by a PhD candidate in literature, downloaded all of the important Sage journals into an offline archive. They called themselves "Pradeep's Eleven" –a reference to the US heist film 'Ocean's Eleven'.

Within days, the university received a warning and free access was withdrawn. By then, however, students had assembled a very large archive. This new archive, in turn, was combined with a still-larger unofficial library assembled from other clandestine copying, including material brought by students returning from abroad. This combined library now circulates widely within the university on portable hard drives and flash drives.

As students acquire new materials, the collection slowly grows and new versions become canonical. As new students enter the university, the collection is passed on.

Le Livros

Started some time near 2017, continues to be active.
Is comprised of approximately 7.500 titles. As of early 2017,
is probably the largest shadow library for Portuguese-language
content.

The Uncensored Library

Minecraft server and map launched in 2020 by Reporters Without Borders, and created by BlockWorks, DDB Berlin, and MediaMonks as an attempt to circumvent censorship in countries without freedom of the press.

The library contains banned reporting from Mexico, Russia, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Belarus, Brazil, and Eritrea.

Anna's Archive

It was founded by the Pirate Library Mirror in direct response to law enforcement efforts to close down Z-Library in 2022. As of April 1 2024, Anna's Archive includes 30.702.128 books, and 99.901.919 papers.

On March 23, 2024, the Dutch pirate site blocklist has been reported to now include Anna's Archive and Library Genesis, based on a request by BREIN, a local anti-piracy group. Since September 2025, the library is accessible in the NL again.

The Anarchist Library

Focused solely on anarchism and anarchist texts.

“Against the state and capital, this immediately rules out the so-called ‘anarcho-capitalism’, ‘anarcho-nationalism’ and similar crap.”

Launches the South Asian Anarchist Library on December 2025.

DDoS Attack

Open Library and The Internet Archive both suffered from a DDoS Attack during September 2024.

“DDOS attack—fended off for now; defacement of our website via JS library; breach of usernames/email/salted-encrypted passwords.”

Case Studies

Poland

(Post-Stalin USSR) Communist ideologies of the reading nation and mass education, censorship of texts, abused library system, economic hardships, and dysfunctional markets, informal practices that ensured the survival of scholarship and literary traditions under hostile political and economic conditions.

Uruguay

In Uruguay, unauthorized photocopies are still the principal means of access to course materials generalized throughout the academic community and facilitated by faculty.

South Africa

The control of access to education and to different levels of knowledge was a central pillar of the apartheid state; a way of enforcing the subjugation and difference of the majority black population. Student revolts to decolonize educational curriculums.

Palestine

The Israeli Occupation Forces targeted academic institutions in Gaza, leaving the strip devoid of any university. Libraries and other educational facilities have also suffered from the epistemicide. The settler colonial state continues to target and murder journalists, as well as obfuscating documentation of the Palestinian genocide.

Bangladesh

Major historical victory for Bangladesh led by student protests in solidarity with working class movements: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigns. The challenge is to keep this mobilization and organize towards a new system (07/2024)

News on the PACBI (Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel)

Columbia College

Student referendum passes divestment resolution in landslide vote on April 22nd 2024, institution cuts ties with Israeli universities.

Dartmouth

Annelise Orleck, Head of Jewish Studies, is banned for six months from campus for participating in students protests in support for Palestine.

MIT

Activists end the first American-Israeli weapons manufacturer partnership at a university (09/2024)

The Grad Student Council called to end research funding from the Israeli military.

Harvard

11 students are banned from a library in response to a study-in for Lebanon (10/2024)

Yale

Students voted 76% in favor of divesting the university's \$41 billion endowment from military weapons manufacturers, including those arming Israel.

AFT

The American Federation of Teachers confirmed it fully divested from Israel, with no intention to make new investments.

+ Eight former Modern Language Association presidents, including Judith Butler, urged MLA, one of the largest US scholarly organizations in the humanities, to allow members to debate and vote on a BDS motion.

+ 23 US theater and performance organizations had endorsed the PACBI Call.

+ Over 8.000 writers and figures in the book industry (including Sally Rooney, Rachel Kushner, and Arundhati Roy) pledged to boycott publishers, festivals, and publications complicit in violating Palestinian rights.

Coverage/Censorship on the Palestinian genocide

The Sabar Project

One of the largest collections of evidence exposing the Gaza genocide.

Google Drive Library

Someone makes publicly available a Google Drive with access to over 7.000 books and written works on Palestinian history and resistance: <https://shorturl.at/aezG1>

Accountability Archive

@archivegenocide on X, *"A crowdsourced record of journalists, politicians, and public figures making pro-genocidal statements or defaming activists in the Middle East and North Africa."*

The Hasbara Industry – Handbooks

'Hasbara(h)' is Hebrew for "explanation", associated with pro-Israel talking points. Term coined by Nahum Sokolow, president of the World Zionist Organization, and used interchangeably with the term "propaganda". Their document 'The Israel Project' is a handbook created to outline the best language to use to promote Israeli settlements to the American public. The study was marked "Not for distribution or publication" but was leaked to Newsweek in 2009.

+ Israel pays influencer up to \$7,000 per post to occupy information space and share Israeli propaganda.

+ The University of California LA called in police officers to raid a screening of 'the Encampments'. Wearing riot gear and holding projectile weapons, they seized the screen (a sheet and two poles).

Additional News

- + A book about book bans has been banned in a Florida school district (06/2024) ⁴
- + On the same day of the US Presidential Debate, the US House of Representatives voted to ban the State Department from citing Gaza Health Ministry death toll statistics –directly concealing the ongoing genocide on Gaza (06/2024)
- + The entire MTVNews archive is wiped from the internet (06/2024)
- + Utah has become the first state to institute a statewide book ban, prohibiting 13 books in public school classrooms and libraries (08/2024)
- + Disney+ has introduced anti-password sharing in the US (09/2024)
 - + Ken Klippenstein is suspended from X after posting (on his website, then linking it to X) a trove of docs on JD Vance from the hacked Trump campaign (09/2024)
 - + The same conservative group behind Project 2025, The Heritage Foundation, is reportedly planning to target volunteer Wikipedia editors, using facial recognition software and a database of hacked usernames/passwords to find them. This ensues from Elon Musk's recent call to boycott Wikipedia (01/2025)

News on Generative Artificial Intelligence

In the novel 'Fahrenheit 451', the abolition of reading began with tech companies simplifying books into summaries that you could read in 5 minutes. Because people no longer engaged with longer texts, they forgot how to think. Then came the book-burnings.

Magibook

Turns "hard" books into "easy" books.

+ Explorative genAI on JSTOR.

+ The Internet Archive has lost its appeal in Hachette (Bolloré) v. Internet Archive, the long-running, closely watched copyright case over the scanning and lending of print library books. ⁵

"Big Tech's greed has infected Big Publishing, causing them to abandon the concept of ownership for digital books, and to force all libraries and readers to buy licenses that lock them into spyware-ridden apps that turn data on readers into a new product for publishing."

AI, however, freely feeds on personal and private copyrighted media and literary works (even if non-disclosed or non-consensual) and faces no reprimands.

+ 500.000 books removed from The Internet Archive:
One of them being 'Fahrenheit 451'.

+ Meta fed its AI almost everything you've publicly posted since 2007 (The Verge, 12/09/2024)

Israel

Since early 2024 Israel has weaponized AI in its genocide in Gaza, deploying AI-driven surveillance and automated targeting systems which has killed tens of thousands.

Lavender, Israel's AI program, has flagged up to 37,000 Palestinians as bombing targets in 2024.

Buys ChatGPT and trains it to be "more pro-Israel".

OpenAI

Pirated large numbers of books to train models, then deleted the dataset with the pirated books, and employees send each other messages about doing so. A lawsuit could now force the company to pay \$150,000 per book, adding up to billions in damages.

OpenAI pleads that it can't make money without using copyrighted materials for free.

Elon Musk calls to defund Wikipedia ⁶

A contributor updated Musk's page after the latter did a Nazi salute at a Trump's event.

French journal 'Le Point' also denigrates Wikipedia and even threatened a contributor of taking legal action after he wrote on the journal's page that they platform libertarian, islamophobic, and anti-ecologists figures.

Public Domain Image Archive

On January 8th 2025, the Public Domain Review launches the Public Domain Image Archive (PDIA), a curated collection of +10k out-of-copyright historical images, all free to explore and reuse.

CDC “Data Apocalypse” ⁷

Following Donald J. Trump’s move to office, on January 31st 2025, the CDC has instructed its scientists to retract or pause the publication of any research manuscript being considered by any medical or scientific journal. The move aims to ensure that none of the “forbidden terms” appear in the work, eg; *transgender, pregnant person, pregnant people, LGBT, transsexual, non-binary, nonbinary, assigned male/female at birth, biologically male/female.*

Trump cut the budget for HIV/AIDS research funding and treatments.

"All of the data for HIV is gone. Normally there's a menu for medical professionals, but that has disappeared," says Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the University of Saskatchewan who says she was up until 2AM trying to download data on influenza surveillance. One shuttered site was a key youth risk behavior survey that has been collecting data on LGBTQ youth since 2015. It looked like this on Wednesday but as of Friday it is gone.

Also no longer available is CDC's social vulnerability index, which uses metrics such as poverty and age composition to rank communities' vulnerability to natural disasters with the goal of helping emergency responders and public health authorities plan appropriately.

Also dark on Friday after looking like this on Wednesday was a CDC web page titled "CDC's Efforts to Address Racism as a Fundamental Driver of Health Disaprities".

"I knew it was going to be bad, but I didn't know it was going to be this bad," Rasmussen says. "It's like data apocalypse."

Bolloré owns majority of editorial houses in France ⁸

The Bolloré group by the family of the same name is one of the major enterprises in France and globally, retains its own business lines (oil logistics, communications and industry), including major media and publishing houses such as Hachette, Larousse, Le Livre de Poche, Canal, National Geographic, Europe 1 and 2, and Daily Motion.

The Bolloré family are billionaires known for their funding and support of major international far-right movements such as Israel's genocide in Gaza and lobbying conservative and fascist politicians in France.

Hundreds of ‘woke’ words banned by the new Trump administration ⁹

Majority of these words had some relation to DEI policies and “woke” views such as LGBTQ+, interracial, feminism, inclusion, diversity, activism, accessible, anti-racism, ableism, racism.

Trump Administration v. Harvard ¹⁰

Trump's administration attempts to ban international students at Harvard. The school appeals and wins, but Trump cuts off \$2.6B from the college.

"All told, the tradeoff put to Harvard and other universities is clear: allow the government to micromanage your academic institution or jeopardize the institution's ability to pursue medical breakthroughs, scientific discoveries, and innovative solutions."

CBS cancels Stephen Colbert's The Late Show shortly after criticizing Donald Trump

Host Stephen Colbert talked on live about his parent corporation Paramount paid Donald Trump a \$16M settlement over his 60 Minutes lawsuit, he qualified this of a *"big fat bribe"*.

3 days later, Colbert announces live that his show was cancelled, much to Trump's joy: *"I absoltely love that Colbert got fired. His talent was even lesser than his ratings."*

Colbert replies *"go fuck yourself"*.

Trump threatened *"I hear Jimmy Kimmel is next"*.

The Accenture Files

Progressive International, Expose Accenture, and Movement Research Unit, realease the Accenture Files, revealing the central role of the world's largest consultancy in the global right-ward turn towards surveillance, exclusion, and strong-men: The reactionary International.

Mastercard censors queer content

Itch.io (host to video games and books) announces an update in their policies, now deindexing media containing nudity and other NSFW content without alerting users or offering refunds/compensations. This recent choice by Mastercard was influenced by a group of reactionary TERFs (trans exclusive radical feminists) pushing for censorship.

Users alert the censoring of anything deemed NSFW is an attempt to prevent queer expression, as media containing no NSFW content but queer characters have been affected by the recent censorship policies.

The European Union Digital Services Act and the UK's Online Safety Act (27/07/2025)

Mandates age verification for sensitive and adult content, users are required to submit ID and face verification to view now censored content –however, users are not yet allowed to verify their age, and many are concerned with/refuse to submit to ID and biometrics due to possible data breaches/mass surveillance.

- + This has ensued a continental blockage of videos concerning Israel's atrocities in Gaza.
- + Support forums/hotlines for sexual assault, smoking, addiction, suicide prevention, and LGBTQ+ related topics are now blocked.
- + Artists cannot access their own artworks, now censored.
- + Horror and queer games banned from Steam and Itch.
- + Ofcom can order search engines, hosting companies, and even VPN providers, to block websites from UK users.
- + The EU gave platforms 12 months to comply with "strict" age verification guidelines –which are currently being tested in Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, and Spain.
- + Platforms and services asking for ID verification in EU and worldwide now include Spotify, TikTok, Discord, Reddit, X, YouTube, and Wikipedia. Verification is done by AI, producing 4 out of 5 false results.
- + Australia bans social media for teens under 16.
- + European Parliament follows by voting in favor of imposing a minimum age of 16 on social media sites.

Wikipedia operator loses court challenge to regulations under UK Online Safety Act

Wikipedia was in a legal battle with the UK government to try and stop the platform being censored in the UK – or even completely blocked – due to the Online Safety Act.

Under the new law, the UK media regulator Ofcom labels Wikipedia as a “Category 1” platform (sensitive topics such as abuse are censored for minors). This will require for users to provide age and ID verification to access pages on sensitive topics.

AI industry horrified to face largest
copyright class action ever certified ¹¹

"A single lawsuit raised by three authors over Anthropic's AI training now threatens to 'financially ruin' the entire AI industry if up to 7 million claimants end up joining the litigation and forcing a settlement."

Chat Control Act is being considered,
vote scheduled for October 14, 2025

The EU plans to scan all information sent via messaging apps (before encryption) such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Signal, or Telegram. Messages will be scanned with AI before they are even sent, and authorities might be alerted if needed.

Government bans books in Kashmir ¹² (09/08/2025)

Officials in Indian-administered Kashmir have banned 25 books that they say glorify 'terrorism', but critics say it's a major step towards silencing scholars and writers.

Some of the books banned include:

- '*The Kashmir Dispute*' A G Noorani,
- '*Resisting Disappearance*' Ather Zia,
- '*Independent Kashmir*' Christopher Snedden,
- '*USA and Kashmir*' Dr Shamshad Shan,
- '*Colonizing Kashmir: State-building Under Indian Occupation*' Hafsa Kanjwal,
- '*Kashmir's Fight for Freedom*' Muhammed Yusuf Saraf,
- '*Human Rights Violation in Kashmir*' Piotr Balcerowicz and Agnieszka Kuszewska,
- '*Freedom in Captivity*' Radhika Gupta,
- '*Between Democracy and Nation: Gender and Militarisation in Kashmir*' Seema Kazi, and more.

Israel kills Al Jazeera team in Gaza

Journalist Anas Al Sharif, known as the “voice of Gaza” for his reporting for Al Jazeera, was killed on Sunday 10th August at night in an Israeli air strike that also claimed the lives of five other Palestinian journalists and one more person.

Elon Musk' X AI 'Grok' suspended

The account of Elon Musk's X AI 'Grok' is temporarily suspended from its own platform for stating that the USA and Israel are committing genocide in Palestine.

White House to conduct a review of Smithsonian museum exhibitions ¹³

The White House plans to conduct a wide-ranging review of the Smithsonian Institution's exhibitions, materials, and operations, to ensure the museums align with President Trump's view of American history.

The White House passes a bill punishing
“politically motivated” boycotts of Israel ¹⁴
(12/09/2025)

Far-right Rep. Lauren Boebert added an amendment to the Pentagon budget that targets the BDS movement against Israel. This massive defense budget will bar companies engaged in “politically motivated” boycotts of Israel from the Pentagon contracts.

Jimmy Kimmel pulled off-air over Charlie Kirk and MAGA comments ¹⁵

In his monologue on Monday, Kimmel said the "MAGA gang" was "desperately trying to characterise this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them" and of trying to "score political points from it".

Charlie Kirk, a MAGA activist 'debater' was shot in the neck while speaking at Utah Valley University in Orem on 10 September. Tyler Robinson, 22, was charged with the aggravated murder.

Following boycotts throughout September, it seems Jimmy Kimmel's show will remain on air.

- + The Trump administration has ordered the removal of signs and exhibits related to slavery at multiple national parks.
The move follows Trump's March executive order directing the Interior Department to eliminate information that reflects a "corrosive ideology" that disparages "historic Americans".
- + Trump designates antifa as a "major terrorist organization", setting the stage for charges against protestors.
 - + Trump administration is reportedly preparing to label transgender people as "violent extremists".
 - + Trump administration set to tie Tylenol to autism risk.
- + Immigrants with no criminal record are now the largest group in ICE detention.
 - + A new White House directive lists "anti-American, anti-capitalist, and anti-Christian" beliefs as indicators of "extremist violence".
- + Gov Newsom signed AB 715 (pro-Israel school censorship bill) into law, ignoring serious concerns and overwhelming opposition of every major educational union and association across the Californian state. Specifically, AB 715 will ban criticism of Israel in K-12 schools by conflating it with antisemitism.

Google and Youtube accept billion dollar contracts to pass Israeli propaganda

Top Google searches on the Global Sumud Flotilla show results with accusations of terrorist actions.

YouTube shows ads by Israel's Foreign Affairs Minister stating *"There is food in Gaza. Any other claim is a lie."*

An internal Google email said it received many complaints about Israeli government YouTube ads about food access in Gaza, but ruled they could remain online.

Microsoft blocks Israel's use of its technology in mass surveillance of Palestinians

"The extraordinary decision by Microsoft to end [Israel's] spy agency's access to key technology was made amid pressure from employees and investors over its work for Israel's military and the role its technology has played in the almost two-year [genocide] in Gaza."

– The Guardian.

Global Sumud Flotilla kidnapped by Israel (02/10/2025)

Over 450 civilians from 47 countries were illegally abducted by the IOF in international waters. Participants were attacked with water cannons, sprayed with sewage water, and their communications jammed. Global protests erupt in response.

ICE is planning to build a 24/7 social media surveillance team to target people for deportation

"According to government documents obtained by Wired, ICE is planning to hire 30 private contractors to monitor major social media platforms round-the-clock with the goal of gathering intel to help coordinate raids and deportations."
– @so.informed on Instagram.

The 10 most challenged books of 2024

The American Library Association documented 821 attempts to censor materials and services at libraries, schools, and universities in 2024. The most common reasons for challenges were false claims of illegal obscenity for minors; inclusion of LGBTQ+ characters or themes; and dealing with topics of race, racism, inclusivity, equity, and social justice. Of the 2,452 unique titles that were challenged or banned in 2024, here are the top 10 most frequently targeted:

*'All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto',
'Gender Queer: A Memoir', 'The Bluest Eye',
'The Perks of Being a Wallflower', 'Tricks', 'Looking for Alaska',
'Me and Earl and the Dying Girl', 'Crank', 'Sold', and 'Flamer'.*

FFC and TMTG Flotilla unlawfully intercepted by IOF

145 people kidnapped.

120 nautical miles off the coast of Gaza, in international waters, the vessels and all those on board have been kidnapped, in clear violation of international law.

Discord UK user's IDs compromised

Following the UK's Online Safety Act instauration earlier this year, digital platform users were now required to verify their age by submitting IDs and biometrics.

Discord now confirms that user IDs, specifically government issued ones, uploaded by children, teens, and adults alike, have been compromised in a confirmed hack.

Additional News

Wikipedia

Cofounder Jimmy Wales has blocked editing access to the site's Gaza genocide page, stating that it fails to meet the company's "high standards" and "needs immediate action".

YouTube

Deletes more than 700 videos on Israeli human rights violations against Palestinians.

Netflix

Announced acquisition of Warner Bros.
'Warner Bros' Hidden Appeal to Netflix: AI Supercharger'
(The Hollywood Reporter)

- + Public.work, and Online Library hold real art from museums and libraries all over the world, pertaining to public domain.
- + The U.S. Federal Government officially shuts down (01/10/25)
Federal agencies are required to stop all action deemed "non-essential" (ex: national parks and museums close, passport and visa processing stops or is slowed down, some IRS functions are paused, etc.). Millions of federal employees, including many in the military, are not paid during a federal government shutdown, even if they are required to work.
- + Trump administration has revoked the visas of six people over social media posts about Charlie Kirk's assassination.
- + Trump's PBS replacement features Christopher Columbus telling kids that slavery was "no big deal".
- + Trump administration wants to require tourists to provide 5 years of their social media history as part of their application to visit the US, as well as all email accounts and family's personal contact information details. The administration told consular officials to deny visas to anyone who might have worked in factchecking or content moderation accusing them in blanket terms of being "responsible for, or complicit in, censorship or attempted censorship of protected expression in the US".¹⁷
- + Under UK legislation, anyone developing end-to-end encryption is now labeled as a "hostile actor", according to a new [report](#) on national security laws (State Threat Legislations 2024).

300+ writers, scholars, and public figures,
refuse to contribute to The New York Times
until these three demands are met:

I. Conduct a review of anti-Palestinian bias in the newsroom
and produce new editorial standards for Palestine coverage.

II. Retract the widely debunked investigation
“Screams Without Words”.

III. Publish an editorial calling for a US arms embargo on Israel.

EU Digital Omnibus

- + Rewriting GDPR –letting AI giants like Google and OpenAI– use sensitive data (health, politics, orientation) to train models.
- + Democratic rights rolled back –limits on workers, journalists, and researchers accessing their own data.
- + Legal safeguards ignored –experts say the process skipped consultation and may breach EU principles.
 - + Germany leads –under US pressure? Berlin’s push for “AI competitiveness” mirrors Washington’s tech agenda.
- + Tech Lobbying hits record highs –Big Tech spends 151 million euros in a year in Brussels to shape these rules. What is supposed to be for modernization is looking more like a privacy rollback.

Chat Control Act is back on the table (13/11/2025)

The act failed to pass last month as the Danish presidency withdrew approval due to heavy backlash. However, it is now reintroduced with a “compromise”.

Originally, it demanded a mandatory scanning of all chats before encryption.

Within the new proposal, mandatory scanning is gone; voluntary scanning is applied and they’ve added a “review clause”, meaning the EU Commission can bring back mandatory chat scanning at any time if they think new technology makes it possible. Article 5 may also force “high risk services” to develop new scanning technologies.

‘Voluntary’ scanning still means Big Tech can read your private chats and train AI models on your messages, pass “suspicious” content to authorities, innocent people can get flagged by false positives, and unencrypted platforms become the default for the poorest and least informed users.

The Epstein Files

COURIER creates a searchable database with all 20,000 of the files just released from Epstein's estate.

Trump's name appears in them more than anyone else: 1,628 documents.

Grand majority of the released files are blacked out and censored.

News on Digital IDs

The Chat Control Act is passed in the EU Council and will now be discussed in Parliament in summer 2026 with a new initiative named ProtectEU (or “Going Dark”) including VPN services, wanting to “enable law enforcement authorities to access encrypted data in a lawful manner”, according to Mullvad.

It will now also demand age and ID verification for all social media users, and chats will be scanned by AI and utilized for training.

Apple

Create and present an ID in Apple Wallet, using information from their US passport. Beta will first roll out at TSA checkpoints in more than 250 airports in the U.S for in-person identity verification during domestic travel.

Canada signs deal with the EU to make Digital IDs interoperable across borders. It's called Memorandum of Understanding on Digital Credentials, Digital Identity Wallets, and Trust Services.

- + This new Canada-EU digital pact follows the June 2025 commitment to align digital frameworks and establish interoperable digital identities. They will jointly test and pilot digital identity wallets using a new expert forum to ensure both systems work together seamlessly. They'll also share data, best practices, and explore mutual recognition standards.

- + 23andMe confirms 6.4 million DNA profiles breach.

- + In India, over a billion people were forced into Digital ID for access to basic services, healthcare, pensions, and banking. 85,000,000 datasets were hacked and sold to the lowest bidders. ¹⁸

- + US Department of Homeland Security's new policy of mass facial recognition of noncitizens, with data stored for 75 years, is now in effect. (28/12/25)

- + Under draconian plans, the UK gov is consulting on the use of tech that analyses citizens' "motions and emotions" using public CCTV.

- + The Trump administration says it will withhold SNAP benefits from Democrat-led states if they don't provide data such as recipients' immigration status.

News on Generative Artificial Intelligence

A new article by Axios shows that 52% of online articles were generated by AI, as opposed to 48% which were written by humans.

A study conducted by the European Broadcasting Union has found that 45% of responses to questions about the news has at least one “significant” issue.

AI is inventing academic papers that don’t exist, and they’re being cited in real journals. ¹⁹

Al Jazeera

Launches ‘The Core’, an AI-integrated News Model built on Google Cloud.

Slop Evader

A new tool that filters your web searches to only include results from before November 2022, the day ChatGPT was released to the public.

+ ChatGPT Android app 1.2025.329 beta includes new references to an “ads feature” with “bazaar content”, “search ad”, and “search ads carousel”.

+ EU investigates Google over its use of online content for artificial intelligence as suspicions arise of Gemini Nano Banana Pro being trained on Google Photos.

Grok creates mass deepfakes and CSAM

Twitter/X has added a Grok-powered AI image editor that let's anyone edit any image on the platform with a single button, including using text prompts.

Artists warn there's no opt-out or consent, raising concerns over unauthorized edits and misuse.

Thousands of artists leave the platform or cease posting artwork, including prominent figures such as manga artists Boichi (Dr. Stone), Kei Urana (Gachiakuta), and Mokumokuren (The Summer Hikaru Died).

On demand to user's requests, Grok generates thousands of deepfakes of women and children in sexualized clothes, or with no clothes at all, in sexual positions.

In response, the UK has now made it illegal to create "non-consensual intimate" images.

Anna's Archive scraps Spotify (20/12/2025)

Anna's Archive scraped 300TB torrent worth of Spotify songs.

Their main domain was sniped a few days later, but alternative domains and mirrors remain available.

GrapheneOS removes France servers

The GrapheneOS team has said that “France isn’t a safe country for open source privacy projects”, pointing to what it describes as the expectations of encryption backdoors.

The internet is no longer forever.
You need to become your own archivist for whatever
you are passionate about, because at some point this decade
there is going to be a major purge and most global
digital content will simply disappear.

General Sources

'Shadow Libraries: Access to Knowledge in Global Higher Education', Joe Karaganis, Balázs Bodó, Evelin Heidel, Eve Gray, Laura Czerniewicz, Mirosław Filiciak, Alek Tarkowski, Lawrence Liang, Pedro Mizukami, Jhessica Reia, Jorge Gemetto, Mariana Fossatti, 2018

+ Aforementioned shadow libraries.

Sources

- ² Ismatu Gwendolyn and the Boston Ujima Project
- ³ *'The ongoing torture and medical neglect of Julian Assange'*, PubMed Central
- ⁴ *'Florida Book Bans Book banned'*, The Guardian
- ⁵ *'Internet Archive's e-book lending is not fair use, appeals court rules'*, Ars Technica
- ⁶ *'The Heritage Foundation plans to 'identify and target' Wikipedia editors'*, Forward
- ⁷ *'Health agencies purge Trump-targeted programs and websites'*, Science Org
- ⁸ Désarmer Bolloré.net
- ⁹ *'These Words Are Disappearing in the New Trump Administration'*, The NYT
- ¹⁰ *'Harvard argues in court that Trump administration's \$2.6bn cuts are illegal'*, The Guardian
- ¹¹ *'AI industry horrified to face largest copyright class action ever certified'*, ARS Technica
- ¹² *'Government Bans Books in Kashmir'*, Al Jazeera
- ¹³ *'White House to conduct review of Smithsonian museum exhibitions to ensure they fit with Trump's view of American history'*, ABC News
- ¹⁴ *'The House just passed a bill punishing "politically motivated" boycotts of Israel'*, The Intercept
- ¹⁵ *'ABC takes Jimmy Kimmel off air over Charlie Kirk comments'*, BBC
- ¹⁶ *'Donald Trump Civil War National Park Slavery Photo'*, GroundNews
- ¹⁷ *'Tourists to US would have to reveal five years of social media activity under new Trump plan'*, The Guardian
- ¹⁸ *'Aadhaar Data Breach'*, Huntress
- ¹⁹ *'AI is inventing academic papers that don't exist, and they're being cited in real journals'*, Rolling Stone

